

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/642,208

Examiner

Edwin A. León

Applicant(s)

HUANG, CHYONG-YEN

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
Gary Fournier  
Primary Examiner

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

1. Claim 1 is allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Haden (U.S. Patent No. 4,707,042) discloses a safety protective cover (115) for socket receptacles (110) comprising: an upper housing (117) having receptacles (120), a sliding base (140) located below the upper housing (117), and having pushing members (138), and stopping members (134) at an upper side thereof for corresponding to the receptacles (120) at the upper housing (117), a first elastic member (137) providing the sliding base (140) with elastic restoring forces and a lower housing (116) located below the upper housing (117). See Figs. 1-3.

Yu (U.S. Patent No. 6,149,446) discloses a safety protective cover (1) for socket receptacles (Fig. 3) comprising: a sliding base (31, 32) having pushing members (317, 323), and stopping members (311, 322), an elastic member (33) providing the sliding base (31, 32) with elastic restoring forces. See Figs. 1-7.

Bowden, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 5,006,075) discloses a safety protective cover Fig. 2) for socket receptacles (22) comprising: an upper housing (14) having receptacles (24, 26, 30), a sliding base (22) located below the upper housing (14), and having pushing members (34, 36), and stopping members (66, 72) at an upper side thereof for corresponding to the receptacles (24, 26, 30) at the upper housing (14), a first elastic

member (106) providing the sliding base (22) with elastic restoring forces, a second elastic member (108) provide the sliding base (22) with elastic restoring forces, and a lower housing (10) located below the upper housing (14). See Figs. 1-7f.

However, the references fail to teach, disclose, or suggest, either alone or in combination, the slide-guide members having an inclined plane for guiding sliding movements, and when the stopping members of the sliding base are simultaneously pushed away from the receptacles at the upper housing, the sliding base suppresses the second elastic member to move vertically in a downward direction, and at an instant that the pushing members come into contact with the slide-guide inclined planes of the slide-guide members, the sliding base continues to displace horizontally to force the stopping members out of the receptacles at the upper housing; when the stopping members are not simultaneously pushed away from the receptacles, the sliding base regards one of the elastic terminals of the second elastic member as a fulcrum, such that the sliding base fails to perform horizontal displacement by having other stopping member not being pushed away from the receptacle remain blocked in the receptacle and in combination with the rest of the limitations of the base claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


### ***Conclusion***

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Short (U.S. Patent No. 4,867,694), Gizienski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,867,693), Cauley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,822,290), Barkas (U.S. Patent No. 4,544,219), Yu-Tse (U.S. Patent No. 6,217,353) and Montague (U.S. Patent No. 6,537,089) disclose protective covers for socket receptacles having sliding bases, elastic members, and stopping members.

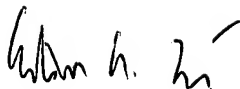
3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



GARY K. PAN  
Patent Examiner



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